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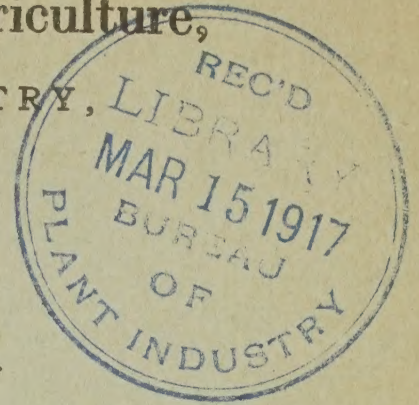
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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Forage-Crop Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

**CARIB GRASS** (*Eriochloa subglabra*).

Carib grass is a native of the West Indian Islands and was introduced into the United States in 1914, having since been tested somewhat extensively along the Gulf coast from Florida to southern Texas.

In growth and habit it is much like Para grass, but it does not produce as long runners, though making a heavier erect growth, and so is more easily handled in making hay. In localities suited to its cultivation it makes a vigorous growth, giving two to four heavy cuttings for hay. The hay is rather coarse, but it is tender and nutritious and is eaten greedily by horses, mules, and cattle. On the rich, peaty soils of southern Florida it has made as much as 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of field-dried hay per acre from four cuttings.

It is also well suited to grazing and will furnish continuous pasturage during warm weather when moisture conditions are good. Carib grass is not well adapted to withstand drought.

Though it produces seed heads abundantly, few good seeds have been found in this country, so it is commonly propagated by planting cuttings of the long, trailing stems. These root easily and quickly, so propagation is an easy matter, as the cuttings can be planted 6 to 8 feet apart and still will soon cover the ground. In the spring of 1915 the Department of Agriculture sent 10 plants to a grower in southern Florida, and in October of the same year he reported that by repeated plantings of the cuttings he then had 10 acres heavily set in the grass.

It does not bear more cold than does Para grass and is not recommended for planting where the temperature often falls below 26° F.

In general it is similar to Para grass, but it makes a much heavier, more nearly erect growth, and so is more valuable as a hay crop. It is easily destroyed by a shallow plowing and harrowing late in the fall.

C. V. PIPER, *Agrostologist*.

JANUARY 15, 1917.

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